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UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

Resumption of ration distribution to Palestine refugees

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted to the General Assembly in pursuance of its resolution 46/46 F of 9 December 1991, in which the Assembly expressed regret that its resolutions 37/120 F of 16 December 1982, 38/83 F of 15 December 1983, 39/99 F of 14 December 1984, 40/165 F of 16 December 1985, 41/69 F of 3 December 1986, 42/69 F of 2 December 1987, 43/57 F of 6 December 1988, 44/47 F of 8 December 1989 and 45/73 F of 11 December 1990 had not been implemented; called once again upon all Governments, as a matter of urgency, to make the most generous efforts possible and to offer the necessary resources to meet the needs of UNRWA, particularly in the light of the interruption by the Agency of the general ration distribution to Palestine refugees in all fields, and therefore urged non-contributing Governments to contribute regularly and contributing Governments to consider increasing their regular contributions; requested the Commissioner-General of UNRWA to resume on a continuing basis the interrupted general ration distribution to Palestine refugees in all fields; and requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Commissioner-General, to report to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the resolution.

2. The Agency has continued to provide food assistance to the most needy sector of the refugee population, special hardship cases, who numbered 167,602 persons in December 1991.

3. The Agency is also continuing its emergency distributions of basic commodities, such as flour, rice, sugar, animal protein and skim milk to those in need, including non-registered Palestinians in the occupied territory and

Lebanon. In 1991, 25,896 tons of these commodities were distributed in the Gaza Strip; 25,527 tons in West Bank; and 3,307 tons in Lebanon.

4. Given the lack of additional resources, it has not been possible for the Commissioner-General to consider resumption of a general distribution of basic food rations to all refugees.